

NEW SOUTH WALES.

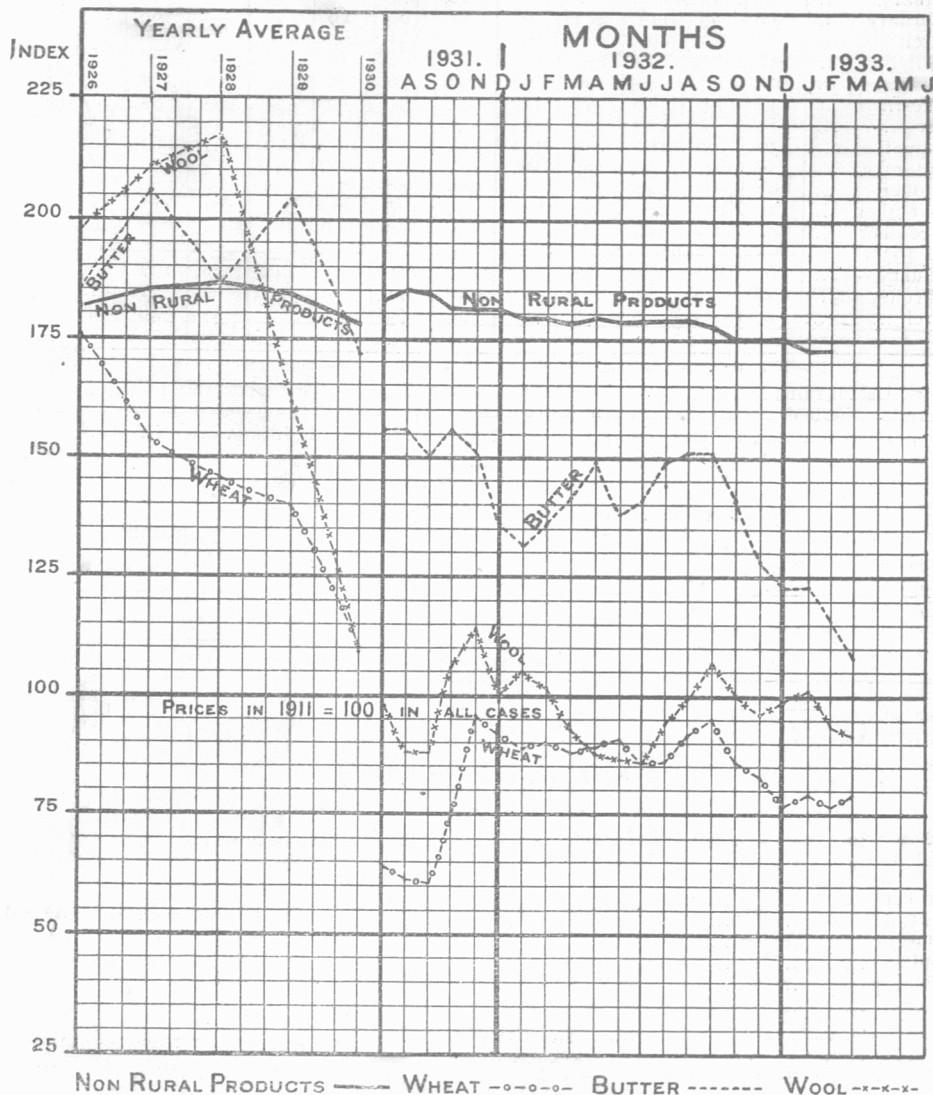
MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

No. 24. APRIL 26, 1933.

Issued by T. Waites, Government Statistician.

INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911 = 100.



All prices are in Australian currency. The indexes for recent months are shown in table 24 on page 11 of this summary. The footnotes to that table apply also to this graph.

SECTION A.—RAINFALL AND PRODUCTION.

1. RAINFALL—INDEX.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.
(Average rainfall for each month = 100.)

Month.	Sheep Districts.					Wheat Districts.				Dairying Districts (Coastal only.)			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.
1932.													
January ...	38	14	8	2	17	41	11	8	13	23	49	8	28
February ...	34	73	113	223	91	37	66	126	99	44	88	73	59
March ...	85	181	202	103	152	99	191	193	180	15	66	129	45
April ...	151	116	200	153	157	111	132	216	181	108	66	86	94
May ...	61	37	46	130	57	60	36	42	43	96	101	65	93
June ...	45	50	63	43	59	44	51	86	72	52	52	14	47
July ...	77	80	100	74	85	76	76	95	87	44	134	119	77
August ...	39	90	166	93	101	45	96	160	129	32	61	157	55
September ...	239	197	96	106	166	241	183	103	141	213	274	220	230
October ...	97	63	47	25	63	109	69	41	57	99	79	91	93
November ...	126	127	101	111	117	115	139	99	112	101	113	143	110
December ...	51	61	60	31	54	64	66	55	59	29	42	104	42
1933.													
January ...	165	100	136	58	126	172	106	153	143	140	122	236	148
February ...	39	9	1	27	17	32	11	1	7	38	21	14	31
March ...	27	63	46	34	44	43	63	50	53	47	48	86	52

N.—Northern; S.—Southern; C.—Central; W.—Western; T.—Total, all districts.

Useful rains fell over the greater part of the State in January, and brought relief in many districts where dry conditions were proving embarrassing. February and March were very dry months but rain fell over the greater part of the State in the first week of April.

2. WOOL.

It is anticipated that the total production of wool for 1932-33 will be approximately 517,000,000 lb. as compared with 503,210,000 lb. in 1931-32. Satisfactory clearances are being made at auctions.

SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

Period.	Number of bales sold.			Amount realised for wool sold		
	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
Nine months ended 31st March* ...	914,548	957,331	1,071,802	£ 10,368,708	£ 10,713,696	£ 12,104,968

Number of Bales Received into Store.

		During Month.			Total for Season to end of Month.		
July	24,787	31,672	52,218	24,787	31,672	52,218
August	131,860	203,140	240,365	156,647	234,812	292,583
September	308,429	332,320	283,411	465,076	507,132	575,994
October	254,369	291,250	286,955	719,445	858,382	862,949
November	169,343	180,321	177,429	888,788	1,038,703	1,040,378
December	53,623	64,342	52,967	942,411	1,103,045	1,093,345
January	14,036	21,140	22,419	956,447	1,124,185	1,115,764
February	14,398	19,479	18,180	970,845	1,143,664	1,133,944
March	17,493	22,625	24,842	988,338	1,166,289	1,158,786

Number of Bales in Store Unsold.

31st March	77,559	223,380	134,733
----------------	-----	--------	---------	---------	-----	-----	-----

* Including carry over from previous season.

The course of wool prices is shown in Table 24.

3. WHEAT.

The area sown with wheat for 1932-33 was 4,702,500 acres, including 4,388,700 acres for grain. The quantity of new season's wheat despatched or awaiting despatch from country stations of New South Wales Government Railways was 65,000,000 bushels as at 8th April, 1933. This quantity may include a certain amount handled twice. It is estimated that the total crop harvested in the State is in the vicinity of 77,000,000 bushels.

WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM NEW SOUTH WALES (DIRECT)

Month.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
Bushels of Wheat.			Tons of Flour.			
December	2,930,397	3,470,737	5,895,225	13,922	22,404	25,331
January	2,863,173	5,344,553	6,033,908	11,018	10,212	15,049
February	3,555,985	5,307,083	7,525,590	14,089	20,291	31,373
March	7,343,386	3,521,337	4,166,015	18,196	24,223	30,190
WHEAT AND FLOUR I.						
Bushels of Wheat (Equivalent).			Value £.			
December	3,593,337	4,537,605	7,101,449	487,866	737,355	1,039,656
January	3,387,859	5,830,820	6,750,537	432,109	986,683	981,122
February	4,226,878	6,273,300	9,019,564	447,882	1,013,169	1,258,224
March	8,209,881	4,674,823	5,603,643	923,968	735,213	806,092
Total (four months)	19,417,955	21,316,548	28,475,193	2,291,825	3,472,420	4,085,094

On 8th April, 1933, the quantity of new season's wheat grain stored in silos and on railway premises was 25,658,000 bushels. Of this quantity, 7,236,000 bushels were on sites in the Metropolitan Area. Stocks of grain and flour as at the end of November, 1932, were equivalent to 2,640,000 bushels of wheat as compared with 5,453,000 a year previously.

The course of wheat prices is shown in Table 24.

4. BUTTER.

The production of butter in 1931-32 reached a record total, which appears likely to be exceeded in the current season.

Month.	Output of Butter (New South Wales factories).		Butter exported oversea (New South Wales).			
	1931.	1932.	Quantity.		Value.	
			1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.
	Thousand lb.		Thousand lb.		£	£
July	6,590	6,013	1,245	786	67,366	39,248
August	6,771	6,494	1,295	1,037	68,471	53,246
September	7,829	7,737	2,117	1,463	113,435	75,544
October	9,743	12,394	2,971	3,700	167,502	195,195
November	11,495	13,706	3,669	6,804	197,853	308,524
December	14,560	14,301	6,072	6,669	304,209	272,102
Total, July-December ...	56,988	60,646	17,369	20,459	918,836	943,859
	1932.	1933.	1932.	1933.	1932.	1933.
January	13,879	12,271	7,901	5,343	374,938	228,155
February	11,581	13,463	5,092	6,192	245,812	249,443
March	9,804	...	3,936	7,126	197,188	267,097

The course of butter prices is shown in Table 24.

5. COAL.

In the absence of monthly records of production, the best available indications of trends in the industry are provided by railway haulings and exports:—

Month.	Coal Hauled by Government Railways.†			Coal Exported from New South Wales.†	
	1928.	1932.	1933.	1932.	1933.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Twelve months ended 31st December	6,198,971	4,609,416	...	2,368,092	...
January	546,533	325,634	360,500	157,959	204,914
February	502,801	370,813	387,499	197,860	217,050
March	522,006	385,149	420,000*	204,570	235,651

* Approximate.

† Cargo and bunker, Oversea and Interstate.

‡ Excludes coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in New South Wales without being hauled over Government railways.

6. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Tabulations embracing monthly returns from 42 large factories show the following results which afford some indication of trends in the manufacturing industry:—

Month.	Factory Sales.				Employees.				Weekly Salaries and Wages.			
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	Thousand £.				Hundreds.				Hundred £.			
January... ..	2,553	1,982	1,822	1,996	180	135	137	152	776	542	497	545
February	2,630	1,993	2,108	2,098	179	140	141	156	769	535	519	559
March	2,607	1,977	2,273	...	174	142	144	...	732	539	535	...
April	2,351	1,867	2,019	...	167	140	144	...	697	531	529	...
May	2,384	1,929	1,989	...	162	137	142	...	667	526	523	...
June	2,130	1,879	1,823	...	159	137	139	...	638	506	501	...
July	2,312	1,986	1,887	...	153	135	142	...	620	516	520	...
August	2,071	1,845	2,058	...	152	136	150	...	598	514	554	...
September	2,131	1,889	2,116	...	152	140	155	...	566	519	559	...
October	2,208	1,914	2,042	...	150	142	156	...	555	539	556	...
November	2,204	2,050	2,326	...	149	142	156	...	553	528	560	...
December	2,222	2,265	2,375	...	141	142	155	...	596	527	587	...
Average (January -December)	2,317	1,965	2,070	...	160	139	147	...	647	527	537	...

7. BUILDING INDUSTRY.

PERMITS TO ERECT NEW BUILDINGS.

	Total Value for Quarter ended 31st March.			Country Municipalities (December Quarter).		Suburbs (Month of March).	
	City.†	Suburbs.	Country.‡	No.	Value of Buildings.	No.	Value of Buildings.
	£	£	£		£		£
1931	411,905	171,735	211,123	169	81,925	60	56,310
1932	84,280	99,871	137,827	330	203,033	34	36,350
1933	230,716	236,590	*	...	...	78	97,985

* Not available.

† New buildings and additions.
Shires adjoining Metropolitan Area.

‡ Municipalities and seven

Figures as to permits to erect new buildings show in advance the trend in the building industry. Comparative figures for previous months, quarters and years, are shown on page 21 of the "New South Wales Statistical Bulletin" for December Quarter, 1932.

SECTION B.—TRADE.

8. VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

	Month of March.		Nine Months ended 31st March.	
	Imports.	Exports.*	Imports.	Exports.*
1931	£ 1,865,272	£ 3,871,100	£ 21,835,894	£ 23,862,746
1932	1,622,336	2,650,250	13,474,340	25,535,057
1933	1,935,491	3,959,637	18,158,638	27,446,984

* Excluding gold specie and gold bar, dust, etc.

The values of imports represent the cost f.o.b. port of export plus 10 per cent., and are recorded in *English currency*. The values of exports are the values in the principal markets of New South Wales, less bonuses on butter, &c., and are recorded in *Australian currency*.

9. WHOLESALE TRADE.

AMOUNT of Recorded Sales (New South Wales) under Sales Tax Act.

Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.	Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.
1931.		Million £		1932.		Million £	
January ...	4.20	5.13	9.33	January ...	4.53	5.36	9.89
February ...	4.56	5.15	9.71	February ...	4.76	4.76	9.52
March ...	4.82	4.82	9.64	March ...	5.05	4.50	9.55
April ...	5.27	6.10	11.37	April ...	5.39	4.78	10.17
May ...	5.16	4.65	9.81	May ...	5.03	5.14	10.17
June ...	5.64	5.07	10.71	June ...	4.67	4.94	9.61
July ...	4.63	5.02	9.65	July ...	4.66	5.43	10.09
August ...	4.68	4.42	9.10	August ...	5.01	5.21	10.22
September ...	4.81	5.64	10.45	September ...	5.42	5.68	11.10
October ...	4.84	5.63	10.47	October ...	5.17	5.96	11.13
November ...	4.80	5.71	10.51	November ...	5.25	5.80	11.05
December ...	4.91	6.56	11.47	December ...	5.36	6.40	11.76
				1933.			
				January ...	4.05	5.47	9.52
				February ...	4.49	5.49	9.98

The rate of tax was increased on 11th July, 1931, and a considerable number of commodities was exempt from tax as from 1st September, 1932. Total sales for the year 1932 were £124,260,000, compared with £122,220,000 in 1931.

10. RETAIL TRADE.

Returns collected by the Retail Traders' Association Research Bureau in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank from a number of large city stores indicate the following increases or decreases per cent. for months shown below compared with corresponding months of previous year :—

Month.	Number of Business Days in Month.		Net Sales. (Value).	Value of Stock.	Wages and Salaries Paid.	Number of Employees.
	Previous Year.	Current Year.				
1932.			Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—).			
July ...	27	26	(+) 9.0	(—) 9.4	(+) 1.9	(+) 8.9
August ...	26	27	(+) 13.1	(—) 10.0	(+) 17.4	(+) 6.8
September ...	26	26	(+) 16.1*	(—) 7.6	(+) 8.2	(+) 9.7
October ...	26	25	(—) 1.4*	(—) 6.2	(—) 3.9	(+) 9.0
No vember ...	25	26	(+) 16.4	(—) 4.8	(+) 7.4	(+) 10.8
December ...	25	25	(—) 0.3	(—) 2.6	(+) 1.9	(+) 9.9
1933.						
January ...	23	24	(+) 1.7	(—) 2.3	(+) 0.5	(+) 9.1
February ...	25	24	(—) 3.2	(—) 2.4	(—) 6.3	(+) 9.2

* September, 1932, and October, 1931, included five Fridays. After adjustment on this account the movement of sales was approximately for September (+) 13 and for October (+) 5.0 per cent.

SECTION C.—TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

11. RAILWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

The financial results of operations were:—

	Month of February.			Eight months ended 28th February.		
	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ...	1,149,627	989,952	159,675	10,602,863	8,507,337	
1932 ...	1,167,559	1,003,563	163,996	10,205,495	8,189,379	2,016,116
1933 ...	1,202,367	927,723	274,644	10,637,008	7,716,874	2,920,134

* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses.

The amount of interest chargeable against the railways in 1931-32 was £6,519,217, exclusive of £1,304,600 exchange.

	Month of February.		Eight Months ended 28th February.	
	Net Goods Ton-milage.*	Passenger Journeys.	Net Goods Ton-milage.*	Passenger Journeys.
	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.
1931 ...	110,400	9,825	1,014,923	85,294
1932 ...	116,444	10,696	1,018,995	82,684
1933 ...	149,629	10,187	1,130,283	88,658

* Goods (including wayleave) and live stock. Ton-milage represents the weight times the distance (miles) it was carried.

12. TRAMWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES TRAMWAYS.

	Sydney and Suburbs.			Newcastle and Suburbs.		
	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried. ††	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.
1932.	£	£		£	£	
January ...	303,428	51,819	24,257,242	17,166	1,687	1,635,351
February ...	271,153	50,992	23,686,060	17,050	2,006	1,551,361
March ‡ ...	329,242	82,055	27,114,138	17,005	809	1,587,035
April ...	276,252	26,950	22,866,406	16,848	292	1,567,964
May ...	268,355	27,137	22,098,481	17,144	1,332	1,583,807
June ...	238,773	(—) 63,241	20,955,818	16,207	(—) 1,103	1,491,710
July ...	260,930	12,203	21,576,370	17,007	3,329	1,566,563
August ...	260,090	25,798	21,616,973	16,872	1,868	1,553,802
September ...	258,113	41,310	21,275,290	16,514	2,364	1,514,212
October ‡ ...	234,904	14,121	22,196,205	17,706	3,676	1,599,337
November ...	246,400	34,497	22,772,571	17,186	3,788	1,585,162
December ...	273,584	49,446	24,718,456	19,278	5,886	1,773,181
1933.						
January ...	273,753	58,268	22,623,515	18,396	5,167	1,627,242
February ...	242,430	34,489	21,444,587	16,522	4,021	1,486,857

* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses. The amount of interest chargeable against the tramways in 1931-32 was £412,700, exclusive of exchange. (—) Denotes excess of working expenses over earnings.

‡ Tram fares in Metropolitan area were reduced as from 1st October 1932.

†† Excludes passengers carried on Sydney Harbour Bridge Section only.

§ Sydney Harbour Bridge opened 19th March, 1932.

13. MOTOR VEHICLES.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.), AS AT VARIOUS DATES.

Class.	30th June—			31st December, 1932.‡	31st January, 1933.	28th February, 1933.	31st March, 1933.
	1930.	1931.	1932.				
Cars ...	169,495	154,096	143,970	146,582	147,235	147,633	147,644
Lorries and Vans ...	45,309	41,788	38,618	40,890	41,219	41,491	41,652
Cycles ...	29,410	25,453	22,741	22,808	22,715	22,688	22,515
Buses ...	640	676	362	360	370	378	392
Cabs ...	1,340	1,078	1,070	1,068	1,069	1,066	1,062

Average Weekly Number of New Cars Registered.*

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1930 ...	394	361	285	200	199	196	181	183	135	141	141	132
1931 ...	78	83	69	88	59	55	47	45	45	55	60	53
1932 ...	55	61	63	58	55	53	61	71	67	93	96	122†
1933 ...	74	81	89	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Represents average for four weeks ending on first Tuesday in succeeding month until October, 1932; subsequent periods end on first Friday in ensuing month.

† Average for 3½ weeks ended 30th.

‡ Increase in registrations in December was mainly due to change of system of registration.

SECTION D.—FINANCIAL.

14. SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

Date.	Amount of Deposits.	Date.	Amount of Deposits.
1929—June 30 ...	£ 85,727,514	1932—January 31 ...	£ 72,068,911*
1930—June 30 ...	82,465,430	February 29 ...	71,259,468*
September 30 ...	78,552,912	March 31 ...	70,766,850
December 31 ...	73,406,775	April 30 ...	69,678,291*
1931—March 31 ...	70,773,167	May 31 ...	69,490,437*
June 30 ...	69,810,769	June 30 ...	71,647,869†
September 30 ...	71,448,529	July 31 ...	71,172,593*
December 31 ...	72,503,441	August 31 ...	71,082,991*
		September 30 ...	70,906,662
		October 31 ...	70,774,187*
		November 30 ...	70,584,243*
		December 31 ...	70,298,583
		1933—January 31 ...	71,262,764*
		February 28 ...	71,334,540*

* Approximate.

† Includes accrued interest.

15. TRADING BANKS—ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

TOTAL (including Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and including Government Business).

March Quarter.	Deposits.	Advances, &c., and Government Securities.	Excess of Advances over Deposits, &c.
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £
1931	124,560	139,374	14,814
1932	116,211	141,516	25,305
1933	114,246	133,531	19,285

16. PRIVATE BUSINESS IN PRIVATE BANKS (N.S.W.).

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and excluding Government Deposits and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks.)

March Quarter.	Deposits.			Advances, &c.	Excess of Deposits over Advances.	Ratio of Advances to Deposits.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed).	Not Bearing Interest (Current).	Total.			
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	per cent.
1931	65,673	36,730	102,403	100,101	2,302	97·8
1932	59,160	37,396	96,556	91,667	4,889	94·9
1933	58,672	36,317	94,989	91,972	3,017	96·8

17. INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a Bank other than the Bank in which they were Deposited.)

Month.	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1932.*	1933.*	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1932.*	1933.*
	Amount—Million £					Index Numbers.				
January ...	86·2	78·2	67·4	46·7†	49·2†	1038	990	809	622†	683†
February ...	88·1	75·5	63·8	47·3†	47·7†	1047	958	808	617†	655†
March ...	89·8	83·7	69·9	42·7†	53·3†	1058	950	807	\$	636†
April ...	89·7	68·6	62·4	43·5†	...	1093	926	811	\$	...
May ...	89·7	76·7	54·0	46·1†	...	1087	920	768	\$	...
June ...	84·8	71·7	57·1	51·8†	...	1089	893	741	655†	...
July ...	88·8	73·7	48·9	46·8†	...	1061	895	663	631†	...
August ...	84·1	58·4	45·5	46·0†	...	1078	850	648	634†	...
September ...	78·7	61·7	54·6	51·3†	...	1073	825	643	646†	...
October ...	89·1	71·5	56·0	53·5†	...	1057	802	655	664†	...
November ...	85·5	65·8	50·6†	55·3†	...	1026	806	658†	680†	...
December ...	88·9	86·8	52·9†	57·7†	...	1014	803	635†	680†	...
Year ...	1,043·3	872·4	683·1†	588·7†	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Adjusted by elimination of abnormal transactions on account of Governments.

† Unadjusted on account of amalgamation.

‡ Adjusted on account of amalgamation—Subject to revision.

§ State Government banking transactions suspended. Index not ascertainable.

Inter-bank clearings are regarded as an approximate measure of changes in the general volume of business transactions provided they are considered in conjunction with changes in price levels.

The index represents the ratio of each month's clearings to the average for the month concerned during the five years 1926–1930. This average is represented by 1,000 each month. Seasonal fluctuations have thus been eliminated. Casual fluctuations in monthly index numbers have been smoothed out by taking a three months' moving average, that is, the index shown above for each month is the average of the actual index of that month and the preceding two months. It may be compared vertically or horizontally.

No adjustment has been made for normal growth or change of price levels.

18. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.).

			Month of March.		Three months ended 31st March.	
			Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.
			£	£	£	£
1931	...	...	1,262,543	1,963,028	3,636,024	5,866,339
1932	...	...	884,095	606,990	2,313,336	1,918,783
1933	...	...	1,247,642	673,854	3,505,325	2,191,887

The decrease is partly due to a lower level of values. Comparative figures for individual months are shown in Table 46 of the Statistical Bulletin of New South Wales for December quarter, 1932.

19. LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVESTOCK.

			Month of March.			Three months ended 31st March.		
			Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.
			£	£	£	£	£	£
1931	...	...	913,353	483,799	384,082	2,099,615	1,032,674	922,960
1932	...	...	662,514	307,856	213,092	2,044,492	659,063	465,831
1933	...	...	651,428	428,495	125,931	2,290,388	899,720	313,300

The amounts involved in liens amounted to £9,151,416 for the year 1932, compared with £11,602,878 in 1931.

The numbers involved in liens and mortgages were as follow :—

Three months ended 31st March.			Number of Crop Liens.	Number of Sheep subject to Liens on Wool.*	Number of Livestock under Mortgage.		
					Sheep.*	Cattle.	Horses.
1931	...	...	4,745	3,462,782	3,060,110	35,220	7,978
1932	...	...	4,045	2,775,017	2,737,413	31,243	4,628
1933	...	...	4,235	3,021,881	1,911,134	37,737	3,625

* In many cases sheep are included under both headings.

20. BANKRUPTCIES.

Sequestrations and Deeds of Arrangement, New South Wales.

Year.			Month of March.		Three months ended 31st March.	
			Number.	Liabilities.*	Number.	Liabilities.*
1931	...	...	137	245,682	383	699,043
1932	...	...	50	377,181	180	703,807
1933	...	...	79	123,165	154	234,643

* Gross liabilities before deducting assets.

SECTION E.—GENERAL.

21. UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

		February.	May.	August.	November.
		per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1929	...	9·7	10·0	12·4	13·8
1930	...	16·3	21·0	23·3	26·3
1931	...	29·2	30·7	31·6	31·5
1932	...	31·8	33·2	33·0	31·9
1933	...	30·2	...	...	...

The above figures are compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician from returns supplied by Trade Unions, and represent the proportion of unemployed members to total membership in unions reporting.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID AND INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT.

Data under these headings are now being compiled. Progress tabulations, including nearly 100 of the larger factories, indicate that there were 39,776 employees on the pay sheets in the middle week of February, 1933, compared with 34,903 in the corresponding week of 1932. The increase occurred mainly in the iron, steel, engineering, and clothing trades. The volume of employment in retail trades is indicated in Table 10. According to returns collected by the Department of Labour, the numbers employed directly by Government Departments (including Local Government) on relief works in the last week of February, 1933, were 18,948. In addition, considerable numbers were employed by private employers from advances made by the Unemployment Relief Council.

22. STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX (SYDNEY).

The following index of the values of the principal Company shares on Sydney Stock Exchange embraces the ordinary shares of companies (excluding banking companies) whose business is conducted wholly or largely in New South Wales.

The prices of individual shares are unweighted, and the group averages are the means of the average monthly prices per £ of paid-up capital. The aggregate index is the average for the whole of the shares included in the groups with the addition of 24 miscellaneous shares. It represents the ratio of the average prices of ordinary shares to their par values.

Par Value of Shares = 100.

Month.	²³ Manufacturing and Distributing Companies.	¹⁰ Retail Companies.	⁸ Public Utility Companies.	⁵ Pastoral and Finance Companies.	⁵ Insurance Companies.	Total* Companies 75.	³⁴ Active Shares included in foregoing.
July, 1929...	178·8	172·9	129·9	158·8	231·6	169·4	168·8
July, 1930...	112·5	102·8	109·6	87·9	172·6	112·6	111·2
1931.							
July ...	77·3	65·9	90·8	79·3	119·0	79·5	83·5
September§	72·3	60·2	87·9	75·2	121·3	74·4	77·2
1932.							
January ...	94·2	75·5	110·0	95·2	158·8	93·3	100·9
February ...	92·6	75·3	111·9	92·0	154·5	92·3	99·0
March ...	90·3	73·9	105·1	88·8	148·2	89·5	95·5
April ...	90·0	72·4	104·6	87·5	139·5	87·8	94·4
May ...	91·9	74·8	104·7	89·3	132·3	88·5	95·3
June ...	96·3	77·8	109·0	87·3	145·6	92·2	96·4
July ...	100·0	78·0	112·1	94·9	152·0	95·3	102·1
August ...	106·1	83·2	118·6	106·1	155·2	100·6	108·4
September	114·8	89·4	125·6	114·6	163·8	107·6	116·3
October ...	121·6	95·9	129·4	115·9	174·6	113·5	121·5
November	120·6	93·2	130·4	108·8	172·1	111·4	118·9
December ...	114·0	90·8	132·6	102·9	167·8	107·5	115·2
1933.							
January ...	114·4	90·2	131·9	106·2	163·3	107·0	115·4
February ...	116·4	92·1	133·6	103·6	164·6	108·6	117·3
March ...	115·2	91·6	132·8	100·4	164·9	108·3	116·3

* Including 24 Miscellaneous Companies.

§ The lowest point of the index was reached in September, 1931.

23. CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Index of Monthly Sales of Gas and Electricity (Sydney).
(Based on number of units each equal to 3,412 British Thermal Units.)

Month.	Average, 1929 to 1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
January ...	1,000	1,031	1,013	956	929	979
February ...	1,000	1,044	981	974	949	972
March ...	1,000	1,018	1,011	971	952	976
April ...	1,000	1,036	1,004	960	956	...
May ...	1,000	1,055	1,000	944	951	...
June ...	1,000	1,035	999	966	987	...
July ...	1,000	1,052	987	960	967	...
August ...	1,000	1,061	998	940	973	...
September ...	1,000	1,085	979	936	969	...
October ...	1,000	1,093	972	934	965	...
November ...	1,000	1,093	961	946	972	...
December ...	1,000	1,043	983	973	990	...
Average (12 months)	1,000	1,054	991	955	963	...

24. INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911=100 in all cases.

Date.	Wool.	Wheat.	Butter.	Non-Rural.‡	100 Com- modities Average.	Average Rates of Exchange.‡		
						Australia on London.	London on New York.	Australia on New York.
1911* ...	100	100	100	100	100	100	...	...
1929* ...	162	140	204	184	186	102	100	102
1930* ...	109	110	172	178	170	100	100	106
1931* ...	105	70	154	180	155	128	109	140
1932* ...	96	88	140	177	152	125	139	174
1932—January ...	105	89	132	179	154	125	142	178
February ...	102	90	136	179	154	125	141	176
March ...	93	88	142	178	153	125	134	168
April ...	88	89	149	179	155	125	130	163
May ...	87	91	138	178	152	125	132	165
June ...	86	86	141	178	152	125	133	166
July ...	94	86	149	178	152	125	137	171
August ...	100	92	151	178	153	125	140	174
September ...	107	95	151	177	153	125	140	175
October ...	100	86	141	175	152	125	143	179
November ...	96	83	128	175	150	125	148	185
December ...	99	77	123	175	149	125	149	185
1933—January ...	101	79	123	173	148	125	145	181
February ...	94	77	116	173	146	125	142	177
March ...	92	79	108	172	144	125	142	176

* Average for year.

‡ Approximate.

§ Includes only those (non-rural) primary, manufactured and imported commodities which are included in the index for 100 commodities. Highly manufactured articles are not included. The individual items are listed on pages 488 and 489 of the "Official Year Book of New South Wales" for 1920.

All prices are in Australian currency.

The decrease in prices as between the average for 1929 and March, 1933, was, respectively (per cent. of 1929 average):—Wool, 43; wheat, 44; butter, 47; non-rural, 7; 100 commodities, average, 23.

25. OVERSEA WHOLESALE PRICE LEVELS.

				1931.		1932.								1933.		
				Sept.*	Jan.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
Great Britain— Board of Trade (1924 = 100)				59.7	63.7	59.0	58.8	59.9	61.4	60.8	60.8	60.8	60.3	59.5	58.8	
United States— Irving Fisher (1926 = 100)				68.7	65.0	59.6	60.4	61.8	62.7	61.1	60.3	58.5	56.4	55.3	55.9†	

* Gold standard suspended by Great Britain 21st September, 1931.

† Four weeks.

26. PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Spot Prices of Metals (London Exchange, English Currency).

Date.	Silver (Standard).	Lead.	Spelter.	Tin (Standard).	Copper (Standard).
	per oz.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.
1932.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January	I 7·62	15 2 1	14 12 6	140 5 7	39 10 1
February	I 7·57	14 11 4	14 1 7	139 4 8	36 19 8
March	I 6·34	12 9 9	12 16 5	129 18 3	33 1 9
April	I 4·92	11 7 3	11 16 3	109 0 11	29 19 11
May	I 4·87	10 17 1	12 11 2	122 7 6	28 12 0
June	I 4·84	9 15 0	11 14 2	114 12 11	26 18 4
July	I 4·93	9 19 8	11 15 6	125 19 6	26 2 6
August	I 6·00	11 9 5	13 14 5	142 2 5	31 9 1
September	I 6·00	13 4 9	15 10 9	152 16 3	35 0 8
October	I 5·81	12 1 3	15 0 1	151 7 6	31 18 8
November	I 6 10	12 4 8	15 8 0	153 13 4	32 0 4
December... ..	I 5·11	11 6 10	15 5 7	149 17 10	29 2 8
1933.					
January	I 4·88	10 12 11	14 9 9	145 15 11	28 12 0
February	I 4·88	10 11 6	13 19 10	148 12 8	28 10 7
March	I 5·59	10 14 4	14 13 2	149 4 2	28 4 5
April (1st to 12th)	I 5·46	10 12 6	14 14 3	154 7 4	29 1 9

27. SUMMARY.

The following Table provides some indication of trends in 1932 and 1933 in respect of the principal activities for which it is possible to indicate general trends by monthly figures :—

Refer to Table No. ...	17	9	6	5	7	11	23	12
Month.	Index of Bank Clearings.	Value of Goods sold at Wholesale.	Value of Goods sold by certain Factories.	Quantity of Coal Hauled by Railways.	Value of City and Suburban Building Permits. (d).	Number of Passengers Journeys on Railways.	Index of Quantity of Gas and Electricity Consumed.	Tramway Revenue.
1932.		£ (b)	£ (b)	tons (a)	£ (a)	(c)		£ (a)
January	622	989	182	326	81	103	929	321
February	617	952	211	371	69	107	949	288
March ... ..	...	955	227	385	129	119	952	346
April ... ..	...	1,017	202	378	78	110	956	293
May ... ..	...	1,017	199	386	139	116	951	285
June	655	961	182	396	78	111	987	255
July	631	1,009	189	417	111	110	967	278
August	634	1,022	206	369	134	113	973	277
September	646	1,110	212	415	110	108	969	275
October	664	1,113	204	370	123	119	965	253
November	680	1,105	233	433	124	108	972	264
December	680	1,176	238	363	140	114	990	293
1933.								
January	683	952	200	360	155	113	979	292
February	655	998	210	387	163	102	972	259
March	636	...	...	420	273	...	976	...

(a) Thousands. (b) Ten thousands. (c) Hundred thousands. (d) New buildings and additions. *Not available.

The general position in regard to primary industries might be gauged by reference to tables 1 to 4, and to the prices shown in the graph on page 1, and in table 24.

NOTICE.

This summary is issued as soon as practicable after the 20th of each month. The subscription for twelve months is 3s. (posted), payable to the Government Printer, Phillip-street, Sydney, or 3d. per single copy at the Government Printing Office. This charge applies in all cases, except exchanges and Government Departments.

As space will not permit of repetition of matter, copies should be filed for reference.

Acknowledgment is made of the ready help given by numerous private organisations and businesses, and by various Government Departments in providing data for tables contained in this summary.

The figures for the most recent months are, in general, subject to revision.

Bureau of Statistics, 36 Young-street, Sydney.

26th April, 1933.

Sydney: Alfred James Kent, I.S.O., Government Printer—1933.